



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger V. Pres. – Dave Hacker
Treasurer – Robert Shepard Secretary – Dale Brier

May 8, 2013 1:00 pm
Fox Island County Park
7324 Yohne Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46809

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt
Allen County - Ron Zartman
Carroll County - George Mears
Cass County- Arin Shaver
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd
Gibson County - Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen
Parke County - Phil Cox (alternate)
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel
Sullivan County - John Gettinger
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew
Vermillion County - Larry Southard
Vigo County - Kara Kish
Wabash County - Keith Pool (alternate)
Wells County - Scott Elzey
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

DNR Staff Present:

None

Guests:

Sara Peel- Wabash River Enhancement Corp.
Rae Schnapp - Tippecanoe County (alt)
Dan Wire - Allen County

Non-Voting Members Present:

Joe Schmees - IDEM

Voting Members Absent:

Knox County - Rama Sobhani
Warren County - Steve Eberly

Counties not participating

Jay County

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

John G. called the meeting to order at 1:40PM. Rama Sobhani had given his proxy to George Mears.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Dan Wire from Allen County reintroduced himself to the WRHCC; he was active with the Commission many years ago and now has time to be a part of it again.

Review and Approval of March 13, 2013 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the March minutes as written. Motion carried.

President's Report

John had a chance to speak with the Lt. Governor at a meeting in Indianapolis. John was named most valuable volunteer in Sullivan County. He attended a few other related meetings.

Finance Report

Dale distributed a handout with the current revenue and expenditures for the Wabash Fund (see attached). The current balance in the fund is \$532,714.93. The numbers are for the state fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2012 and ends on June 30, 2013. A motion was made to accept the finance report, motion carried.

Committee Reports

✦ **Budget** - Robert Shepherd had a handout with a proposed budget. After some discussion on proposed expenses, the following changes were suggested:

- Add \$4000 for the 2014 WRHCC retreat.
- Increase sponsorship funding to \$10,000 per year.
- Increase travel budget to \$9000.

This brings the total up to \$76,500, but it is doubtful that much will be spent. A motion to approve the new 2013-14 budget with changes was made. Motion carried.

✦ **Grants** – Dale reported that all the grant contracts had been sent to the recipients some time ago. The DNR is still waiting for a few of them to be signed and returned.

✦ **Legislative** – No report

✦ **Water Trails** – Dale had not received any updates from WRHCC members since the last meeting. Dale reminded the Commission that if the water trail is a priority for them, they need to provide information for it. John G. asked about access sites in Illinois, Dale said they were on the previous version of the water trail maps. Dale wanted to get the IN information squared away first. If you have camping and access information in IL, please send it to Dale.

✦ **Banks of the Wabash (BOW)** – Ken E. reported on the annual meeting. The next meeting is June 19 in Attica.

Old Business

✦ **2014 Grants Priorities** - John G. reminded everyone how important setting grant criteria is. There was discussion about previous grants and criteria, including the differences in historical/cultural grants and recreational grants. Kara K. agreed to chair the Grant committee. The other members are Dave H., Rae S. and Dale B. Kara suggested that instead of discussing the possible priorities today that members should all send her their top priorities and the grant committee would compile, sort and rank them for the next meeting. Rae suggested everyone review the master plan as well. Please send Kara your ideas soon.

✦ **Newport Chemical Depot Land “Re-Use”** - Larry S. reported they hope to have something official done in 2014. There have been many delays with old land records and missing information.

✦ **Year of the River Celebration** - Dale asked if everyone was on the email list for the Year of the River events, everyone was.

✦ **River Currents** – John G. asked that people send their articles in.

✦ **Indiana Bicentennial in 2016** – no report

✦ **River Road and Heritage Community Sign programs** - Ralph W. reported most of the signs are up in Posey County.

Ken E. met with INDOT again about WRHC signs along state roads and highways. Ken had a handout showing suggested sizes and changes to the current signs. Signs that would be put on state roads and highways must be a higher grade than the signs already purchased (engineering grade). Ken said the current signs are still fine for county roads and at access sites; they will not go to waste. There was a discussion about new signs and costs. Dale reminded the group that he still has many signs from the original orders and many counties

never did anything with them. He is hesitant to buy more signs if they will just be stored like the old ones. Dale agreed to do a sign inventory and report back at the next meeting. Ken had a presentation about the signs and standards that he would email to everyone.

- ✿ **River cleanups** – DeTrash the Wabash was postponed in Lafayette due to high water. Vigo County is planning a cleanup for this summer. The Wabash Defenders are having their big cleanup July 27 in Wabash County. Huntington is planning a cleanup for the same day. They have divided the river into 12 sections for better management of the event.

New Business

- ✿ **2014 meeting locations** – Dale confirmed the remaining 2013 locations as:

- July 10, 2013 in Vigo County
- September 11 in Vermillion County
- November 13, 2013 in Tippecanoe County

Counties volunteered to host meetings, the 2014 meetings will be:

- January 8, 2014 in Indianapolis (Fort Benjamin Harrison)
- March 12, 2014 will be the retreat in Turkey Run State Park
- May 14, 2014 in Cass County
- July 9, 2014 in Carroll County
- September 10, 2014 in Wabash County
- November 12, 2014 in Tippecanoe County
- January 14, 2015 in Indianapolis

Dale commended everyone for advanced planning. It makes everything run smoother.

- ✿ **Mission and Agenda** – Dave H. handed out a copy of the Mission and Vision and asked the WRHCC to look at and re-evaluate them. Rae thought the Mission was still relevant, but the Vision needed work. Dave suggested that at upcoming meetings the Commission spend some time revisiting the main objectives from the 2004 master plan to get a good idea what the Vision and Mission should be. We can edit and update the Mission and Vision at the retreat in March. Dale reminded everyone that the Master Plan is for the Wabash River, not the Commission and the goals should reflect that. They are not limited to just what the WRHCC can do.

- ✿ **Sponsorship changes** – John G. said that the executive committee wants to revise the way groups ask for sponsorship funding. There needs to be more information presented and more time for the WRHCC to contemplate funding. Dave H. handed out a sample funding request form. The new procedure should be that a group fills out the form, presents their request to the Commission, then the Commission votes on the request at the next meeting. There was discussion about the form and what to do with urgent requests. It was decided that the form should be available from the Commission members and not available online. Initial requests about funding should be directed to the WRHCC, not a website. A motion was made to accept the form and include a space on the form for actual amount funded, the date of approval, and the presidents' signature. The motion carried. Dale will make the updates to the form.

- ✿ **2014 Retreat** – The WRHCC wishes to continue having the retreat. It will be in March and will be held at Turkey Run State Park. Dave H. spoke about how much it helps new members and the date for the retreat coincides with the new appoints in 2014.

- ✿ **2014 appointments** – Dale B. mentioned that new appointments would be due at the end of the year. He will send letters out County Commissioners this fall asking for appointments.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

✦ **Upcoming committee meetings** – Kara K. will discuss priorities with grant committee soon.

✦ **Other county or special event announcements, Festival dates for next year, etc.** –

Dale announced that the Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference would be in Chicago this October. He handed out save the date postcards.

Dale informed everyone of a potential land purchase in Sullivan County next to Fish and Wildlife property. If any groups are interested in the 30 acres, please contact him.

Kara announced that Keith Ruble is officially retired from the parks department in Terre Haute. He will remain an alternate on the WRHCC.

Keith Poole mentioned a new camping area along the Wabash River in Wabash County.

Next Meeting:

July 10, 2013 1:00 p.m.

Vigo County Annex building

147 Oak Street Terre Haute, IN 47807

	WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR			
	48686			
	Balance as of July 1, 2012	\$415,746.93		
	plus revenue	\$144,530.25		
	minus expenses	(\$27,562.25)		
	Balance April 11, 2013	\$532,714.93		
	Revenue			
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along	\$144,530.25		
	Expenses			
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$11,305.97		
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$791.65		
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$339.16		
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$1,096.68		
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$651.52		
518107	Anthem CDHP 2	\$420.99		
518151	Anthem Trad 2	\$650.95		
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$15.29		
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	\$89.91		
518800	Anthem Vision	\$8.87		
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$2.02		
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$197.81		
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$86.86		
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$75.55		Payroll Total
519725	Payroll Health Savings Acct 2	\$21.88		\$15,755.11
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$261.58		
546002	Off-Office Supplies	\$479.25		
547022	SpOp-Uniforms&Related	\$852.00		Travel Total
547026	SpOp-Awards & Gifts	\$135.00		\$6,569.68
547038	SpOp-Recreation	\$134.98		
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	\$158.71		
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$5,778.96		
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$104.00		
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$266.43		
599026	AdmOp-Dues & Subscriptions	\$500.00		
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$3,000.00		
659410	Postage	\$136.23		
	Total Expenses	\$27,562.25		